

Colonial Downs Monday, August 10, 2020

Jack Fisher has dominated the standings for leading trainer in recent years. This truncated season has not slowed Fisher, who had nine wins at Middleburg Spring, Virginia Gold Cup and Saratoga to date. The only thing that has slowed him was the two days of racing at Colonial Downs where he did not manage to win a race. On the other hand, Jonathan Sheppard made up a lot of ground at Colonial Downs winning three races and trails Fisher by 1 win. He scored a double in the two maiden races at Colonial Downs on Monday, August 20. He also won a hurdle handicap with Hudson River Farms' Iranistan (Darren Nagle) on Thursday, August 13 at Saratoga.

In the first maiden race Irvin S. Naylor's French Light (Gerard Galligan) was content to let others set the pace. He started to make up ground after the last fence, made a bold move around the turn and won as his rider pleased by 5 lengths. Clarke Ohrstrom's Mr. Bridger (Thomas Garner) set the pace to the head of the stretch and held second. Katherine S. Neilson's Battle in Seattle (Bernard Dalton) was in contention most of the race but could not overtake the top two.

Buttonwood Farms' Baltimore Bucko (Gerard Galligan) was a good second at the Virginia Gold Cup Races and would have been the favorite if betting was allowed in the jump races at Colonial Downs. In the second maiden race he was rated off the pace, moved into contention at the last fence, advanced around the turn to take the lead in the stretch and drew away to win by 4 ½ lengths. Silverton Hill LLC's Rambaldi (Thomas Garner) and Magalen O. Bryant's Sea Mast (Kieran Norris) were both rated off the pace and moved as a team into contention at the last fence. They continued to make up ground and battled down the stretch and to the finish where Rambaldi finished second only a head in front of Sea Mast.

Trainer Jeremy Gillam must have the Fountain of Youth at his farm in Maryland. That's the only explanation for Diana Gillam's Elmutahid's drastic change in form. This ten-year-old surprised everyone by winning a waiver maiden claiming hurdle race at the Virginia Gold Cup Races, and even more surprising was his performance in the ratings hurdle race at Colonial Downs. In the early going he was far from the lead, but closed with a rush on the turn, charged down the stretch, and won handily by 5 ¼ lengths. Bethany Baumgardner (owner, trainer and rider) sent her nice mare, Mavourneen to the front from the start and remained in that position until Elmutahid blew past her in the stretch. Mavourneen held on for second, and KMSN Stable's Inverness (Thomas Garner) closed well to be third

Unfortunately, Colonial Downs has canceled the remainder of their meet due to the Covid 19.